

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05
USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
/103 W

-----012382 211048Z /13

R 210615Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8228
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, TU, GR
SUBJECT: TPAO PLANS TO START DRILLING IN AEGEAN

REF: ANKARA 4966

1. POPULAR DAILY GUNAYDIN REPORTED JULY 19 THAT
TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO START DRILLING FOR OIL IN
AEGEAN. GUNAYDIN CLAIMED THAT SEISMIC DATA COLLECTED BY
SISMIK I HAD ESTABLISHED EXISTENCE OF OIL DEPOSITS IN BAY
OF SAROS AND OTHER AREAS.

2. ISMAIL KAFESCIOGLU, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TURKISH
PETROLEUM COMPANY (TPAO), IN ANSWER TO EMBASSY INQUIRY,
SAID THAT TURKS WERE TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR DRILLING SHIP
BUT HAD NOT YET SUCCEEDED. HE CLAIMED THAT TPAO HAD NOT
COMPLETED PROCESSING OF SEISMIC RECORDINGS. THESE, HE
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AGREED, WERE, SO FAR, HIGHLY PROMISING, BOTH IN AREAS
WITHIN TURKEY'S TERRITORIAL WATERS AND BEYOND, ALTHOUGH
WHETHER OR NOT OIL DEPOSITS
EXISTED, AS GUNAYDIN HAD REPORTED, WAS MATTER THAT COULD ONLY
BE DETERMINED BY DRILLING. ORDERS TO BEGIN DRILLING HAD NOT
BEEN GIVEN, KAFESCIOGLU SAID. HIS REPLY WAS TECHNICALLY CORRECT
BUT CAUTIOUS.

3. EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT TPAO HAS RECENTLY SIGNED CONTRACT WITH GLOBAL MARINE TO DRILL IN GULF OF SAROS, WITHIN TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS (REFTEL). COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE CALLED AT EMBASSY. MOST RECENT VISITOR SAID THAT GLOBAL MARINE WAS DEEPLY TROUBLED THAT TURKS MIGHT CONSTRUE RECENT CONTRACT AS REQUIRING COMPANY TO PROCEED WITH NEW WORK BEFORE TPAO PAID IT \$1 MILLION, NOW LONG OVERDUE, FOR EQUIPMENT ADVANCED BY GLOBAL MARINE WITHOUT FORMAL AUTHORIZATION OF FOREIGN CHANGE TRANSFER FROM MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

4. COMMENT. IF TURKEY COULD BEGIN TO DRILL IN BAY OF SAROS TOMORROW, IT WOULD. IT IS ONLY HELD BACK BY ACUTE FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE. ANOTHER TPAO DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MELIH GENCA, TOLD US IN APRIL THAT USE OF DRILLING SHIP AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES WOULD COST TURKEY \$60,000/DAY FOR FIVE MONTHS (\$9 MILLION). HE SAID THAT TPAO'S TOTAL PLANNED INVESTMENT IN 1977 AMOUNTED TO TL 1.7 BILLION (OVER \$100 MILLION). TPAO IS CLEARLY HAVING DIFFICULTY OBTAINING FOREIGN-EXCHANGE PORTION OF ITS PROJECTED EXPENDITURES. DATE WHEN GLOBAL MARINE WILL PROCEED IN SAROS BAY WILL DEPEND ON WHEN IT GETS PAID FOR PAST WORK, UNLESS GLOBAL MARINE HAS NEGOTIATED, AS IT STRONGLY SUSPECTS, AMBIGUOUS CONTRACT, WHICH COULD FORCE IT TO UNDERTAKE NEW WORK BEFORE OUTSTANDING DEBT IS PAID. EMBASSY HAS NOT HEARD OF DRILLING ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE BY TURKEY FOR WORK IN OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AREAS OF AEGEAN.
SPIERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
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